Multi Material Flexible Recovery Collaborative

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SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING COALITION®

Agenda

1. Welcome and industry updates

2. Follow-up discussion from virtual Chemical Recycling Workshop

Industry updates

- New CEFLEX Designing for a Circular Economy Guidelines
- $31.7 million investment in waste plastics facility/manufacturing operation in VA

Industry updates

- **GAIA report**: Chemical Recycling: Technical Assessment

- Chemical recycling is not at present, and is unlikely to be in the next ten years, an effective form of plastic waste management.
- With the need to dramatically reduce global fossil fuel consumption, chemical recycling appears, in fact, to represent a dangerous distraction
- Multiple pathways to adverse environmental impact exist and these are grossly under-assessed.
- Managing these impacts will impose high costs and operational constraints on technology operators.
- Chemical recycling is energy intensive and has multiple intrinsic and ancillary energy demands which render it unsuitable for consideration as a sustainable technology. No chemical recycling technology can currently offer a net-positive energy balance.
- Much greater transparency on operational performance, energy balances, and environmental impact assessment must be provided as standard.

Continued - Discussion from virtual Chemical Recycling Workshop

Objective

Provide a list of the major points to be expressed in our narrative on our website for people to react to.

Last time - Terminology

- "**Advanced Recycling" to external stakeholder** - this is meant to be the broadest term whereas "chemical" is not true for all technologies, e.g. purification and in response to NGOs/consumer concern over use of term "chemical." This name is primarily meant to appease external stakeholders outside of industry.

- **Within industry, conversation is more nuanced** - we use "mechanical" and "chemical" "feedstock" "enhanced" and other terms. What is industry hiring this term to do for us? Internally, we can continue to say 'chemical'.

Continued - Defining recycling

- **Recycling** brings material to the market. Any process that achieves this is recycling. The term includes both mechanical and chemical. processes.

- **For chemical recycling we must consider fate of the materials.** CR is recycling depending on the market uses for its outputs. Everything but fuels counts.

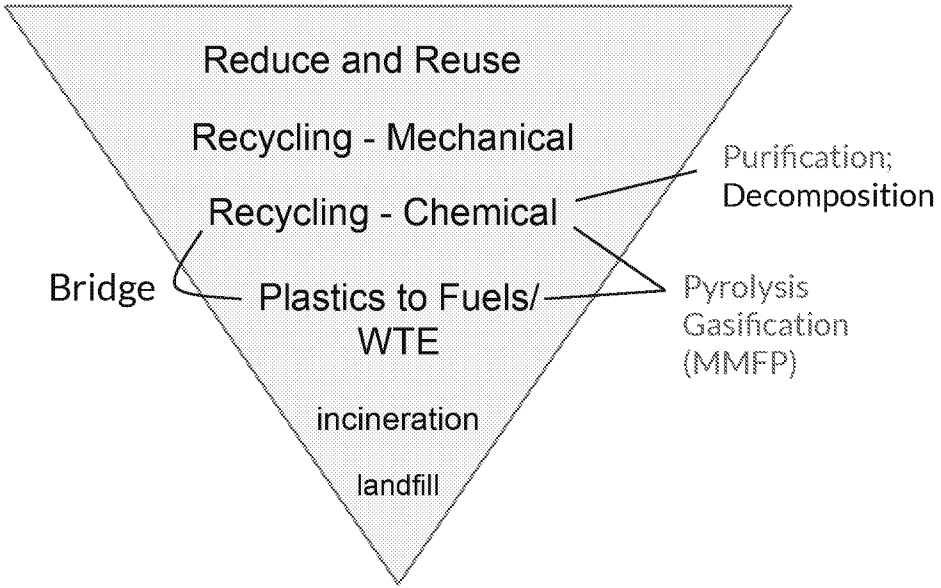
- **Differentiate the different technologies**. **Purification or depolymerization processes are clearly recycling** by any definition since they produce polymers or monomers. Conversion technology depends on end market uses.

The waste hierarchy/other frameworks

- The hierarchy lists recovery in terms of "**best and highest use**" - reflects EPA's Sustainable Materials Management framework.
- **There is some misunderstanding about the waste hierarchy -** If there is a way to recover something that is the best option *available*, why does the hierarchy matter?
- **The circular economy is also about recovering the highest value possible** - but conveys using loops and material ecosystems with less focus on ranking.
- **We should also discuss circularity.** We should socialize an understanding of why circular and recyclable don't have to put products back into exactly what they came from, since CR output can go towards many different things/i.e. many loops.

The waste hierarchy/other frameworks

- **CR belongs somewhere near mechanical recycling** - above or below depends on output and environmental impact
- **Chemical recycling is recycling, and so should go above composting**.
- **Conversion technologies** fall in between recycling and PTF



Future meeting ideas

The role of better design - speaker idea: CEFLEX, APR

Tracking and tracing CR outputs - speaker ideas: ISCCC, RMS

Environmental impacts of chemical recycling technologies - speaker ideas: Closed Loop Partners or SPC

Considerations for policymakers - speaker ideas: state officials working on legislation

Collection as an enabler - speaker ideas: RedCycle, MRFF

What about mechanical recycling? - speaker ideas: Ecomats, Rewall

What about composting? - combined session with Compostable Packaging Collaborative